

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 HEW-06 AID-05 OES-09 ARA-14
/049 R

DRAFTED BY USDA:E PENTSEVY:DD
APPROVED BY IO/HDC:R ANDREW
HEW/OIH:M KEFAUVER
-----114877 122323Z /70
P 122120Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 175934

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNDP, PAHO, EAGR

SUBJECT: UNDP SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN ANIMAL DISEASE
LABORATORY PROJECT

REF: (A) USUN/NY 02843, (B) STATE 173030

1. IN REPLY TO GUCHOUSKY INQUIRY (REF A) AID HAS NO RELATED PROJECTS IN COLOMBIA OR CENTRAL AMERICA. HOWEVER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUING THE UNDP COMMITMENT TO THE PAHO PROJECT.
2. THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) RECEIVES APPROPRIATIONS TO COOPERATE WITH THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OF COLOMBIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING DETERRENTS TO THE SPREAD OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE (FMD) NORTHWARD FROM COLOMBIA AS A RESULT OF THE CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH AMERICAN HIGHWAY. ALSO, A JOINT COMMISSION AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA PROVIDES PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT FROM USDA TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF PANAMA DIRECTED TOWARD UNCLASSIFIED

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PROTECTING THAT COUNTRY FROM THE INTRODUCTION OF FMD. THESE TWO AGREEMENTS ARE KNOWN AS THE DARIEN GAP PROGRAM OF THE USDA.

3. USDA IS COOPERATING WITH THE GOVERNMENTS OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AMERICA AND PANAMA TO SUPPORT AND STIMULATE REPORTING, INVESTIGATION, AND RAPID DIAGNOSES OF VESICULAR DIS-

EASES IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

4. SINCE VESICULAR STOMATITIS - A DISEASE CLINICALLY RESEMBLING FMD - EXISTS IN CENTRAL AMERICA, PANAMA, AND MEXICO, IMMEDIATE LABORATORY DIAGNOSIS OF VESICULAR STOMATITIS DIFFERENTIATING IT FROM FMD MUST BE CARRIED OUT RAPIDLY AND ACCURATELY IN ALL CASES OF A VESICULAR DISEASE APPEARING IN THE REGION. IT IS, THEREFORE, OF UTMOST URGENCY TO STIMULATE DISEASE REPORTING AND INVESTIGATIONS. IT IS EQUALLY NECESSARY TO OBTAIN AN ACCURATE DIAGNOSIS OF SUSPICIOUS CASES THAT OCCUR IN ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE. IT IS TOWARD THIS END THAT THE UNITED STATES IS EXPRESSING ITS INTEREST AND SUPPORT FOR THIS PAHO PROJECT.

5. FYI THE JOINT U.S. PROGRAM WITH MEXICO HAS BEEN IN OPERATION SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF FMD IN THAT COUNTRY IN 1947. THIS IS PERHAPS BEST EVIDENCE OF CONTINUING U.S. INTEREST AND VIGILANCE IN THE REGION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, ANIMAL DISEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE175934
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: E PENTSEVY:DD
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780286-0336
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780767/aaaacewx.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dad37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AGRE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 2843, 78 STATE 173030
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2031121
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNDP SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICAN ANIMAL DISEASE LABORATORY PROJECT
TAGS: EAGR, SWEL, TBIO, US, CO, XK, UNDP, PAHO
To: USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dad37e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014